

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL

May 5, 2015

(6178) Call to order The eighth meeting of Faculty Council for the 2014-2015 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by Professor Langsam (CIS).

(6179) Roll Call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Crossman (Accounting), Li (ECAE), Tremper (Eng), Mohanty (Fin & Bus), Girelli-Carasi (Mod Lang), Watson (SEEK), Elizalde-Utnick (SPCL); School Delegates: Remy & Minter (Humanities & Social Sci.) were absent; Walker (Library) was excused; Administrators: Joyner, Carey, Gilbert, Fitzgerald, Hewitt, Gold and Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.

(6180) Minutes of March 10, 2015 & April 14, 2015 The minutes of the March 10, 2015 meeting and April 14, 2015 meeting were approved.

(6181) Steering Committee Professor Langsam reminded faculty that after the triennial departmental elections the triennial election for at-large school representatives for Faculty Council would be held. Nominations for delegates at large would be May 12-14 with the elections May 19-22; the online election for run-offs, if necessary, would take place May 27-28.

(6182) Communications from the Administration President Gould stated that she was looking forward to what she hoped would be a very fruitful conversation and applauded the faculty for the progress that they've already made.

(6183) Committee on Committees Professor Shortell (Sociology) presented a resolution establishing a standing committee on student advisement. The resolution read as follows:

Therefore be it resolved, that the Faculty Council of Brooklyn College create a new Committee on Student Advisement with the following charge:

The Committee on Student Advisement shall consist of four members of the faculty and one student. The committee shall monitor all policies and procedures involving the advisement of students—including academic advisement and career advisement—and shall make recommendations to Faculty Council for their improvement whenever appropriate. The committee shall have access to the college records needed to carry out this responsibility. The committee shall submit an annual report in May and any other reports that it considers advisable.

The resolution was approved with a vote of 81 yeas, 4 nays, and 1 abstention.

Professor Shortell presented the nominees for the members of the Faculty Council committees for 2015-2016, including the new committee on Student Advisement. There was one vacancy for chair of the Admissions Committee. Professor Shortell explained that the Committee on Committees to balance requests with the need for representation across the schools. Professor Langsam noted that the Academic Foundations Committee and the Core

Curriculum Committee would be constituted as the Ad Hoc General Education Implementation Committee if Faculty Council were able to pass a general education framework at this meeting. Professor Jones (CIS) volunteered from the floor to chair the Admissions Committee. The slate was passed by a vote of 86 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions. Prof. Langsam thanked the committee for their ongoing work.

(6184) Degree Lists

Professor Langsam presented for Professor Thurm (CIS), who was not able to attend, Degree Lists 2015/12 and 2015/13. They were approved with a vote of 86 yeas, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions. Professor Langsam thanked the committee and the Registrar for all their work on these lists.

(6185) Report of Standing Committees

Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Professor Cohen (Music) presented Curriculum Document 376, which had two special topics courses that the committee approved for the fall. These do not require a vote. Professor Cohen made the following statement: the A-IV: Changes in Existing Courses for Sustainability 4001W is being withdrawn from Undergraduate Curriculum Document 375, which passed Faculty Council April 14, 2015, due to a resulting bulletin conflict. The committee would be meeting one more time. If there were special topics submissions or material for the following year, the deadline for submission would be May 11, 2015. Professor Langsam thanked the committee for all their work.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Whitlock (CIS) presented Curriculum Document 228 with the following changes: the course number for Global Cities should be POLS 7735X and that of Comparative Participatory Democracy and Social Movements should be POLS 7745X, with both going into effect fall 2016. The document was approved with a vote of 90 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

(6186) Old Business

Ad Hoc Committee on General Education Reform: Co-Chair Professors Dexter (CIS) and Elaine Brooks (English) presented the resolution on the General Education Curricular Framework.

Professor Dexter (CIS) explained that the committee met shortly after the April 14, 2015 Faculty Council meeting to draft a resolution that included all the amendments that were approved at the April meeting and also captured what they believed were the general sentiments of that meeting. That draft was circulated among the department chairpersons, and this yielded many useful suggestions. So this resolution is the product of many people working quickly yet carefully. The feedback has been almost universally constructive and positive, and the framework seems to have wide support. The committee wishes to clarify two points: (1) the final "Be it further resolved" clause calls for the committee to develop short descriptions of each category as soon as possible. None of the categories are well defined by their words. The committee believes that both faculty and students would benefit from a clear and concise statement of what kinds of courses and ideas can be expected in each category. The committee expects such statements to be developed early in the fall to guide the rest of the implementation of this framework; (2) the framework calls for each first-time, full-time student to participate in a learning community. This is stated as a requirement, but it is not intended to be a requirement for which the student is ultimately responsible; if a student, for whatever reason, is not placed in a learning community, the student should not be prevented from graduating. It is expected that occasional system failures result in a few students not being placed in learning communities, but faculty and administration should collaborate to minimize such incidents. Finally, if Faculty Council approves a curriculum framework, the committee invites faculty to join them at the Core Conference on June 1,

2015 where there will be discussion of ideas for courses and category descriptions.

There was a discussion and general consensus about the categories not necessarily referring to schools and that lower cases should be used to acknowledge that where appropriate.

First motion:

To amend the Language exemption to read as follows:

“Students who are exempt from the 6 cr language requirement (due to demonstrated competency and/or previous coursework) must, **with the exception of ESL students**, instead take 3 cr of a language other than English (at an appropriate level) and one course in the arts or humanities and social sciences. **ESL students will instead take 2 courses in arts or humanities and social sciences.**”

VOTE: 71-11-6; FIRST MOTION PASSED

Second motion:

To amend the Language exemption to read as follows:

“Students who are exempt from the 6 cr language requirement (due to demonstrated competency and/or previous coursework) must, with the exception of ESL students, instead take 3 cr of a language other than English (at an appropriate level) **or a course emphasizing international cultural competency** and one course in the arts or humanities and social sciences. ESL students will instead take 2 courses in arts or humanities and social sciences.”

To call the question on the Second motion: 79-9-1

VOTE: 77-11-1; SECOND MOTION PASSED

Third motion:

To amend the Language exemption to read as follows:

“one course in the arts or humanities and social sciences **or natural and behavioral sciences**. ESL students will instead take 2 courses in arts or humanities and social sciences **or natural and behavioral sciences.**”

Fourth motion:

As a friendly amendment to this (third) motion to read: “one course in the arts, ~~or humanities, and social sciences,~~ **or natural sciences, or behavioral sciences**. ESL students will instead take 2 courses in the arts, ~~or humanities, and social sciences,~~ **or natural sciences, or behavioral sciences.**”

The motion was seconded.

Vote to challenge Chair of Faculty Council's decision to move on to the next speaker rather than have a back and forth on a particular point in the discussion on the General Education Curricular Framework resolution: 10 in favor, 69 against and 6 abstentions; Faculty Council voted to move on.

To call the question on the Fourth motion: 80-6-0

VOTE: 45-40-1; FOURTH MOTION FAILED

Quorum vote: 81-1-3.

Fifth motion:

To call the question on the document

VOTE: 66-21-2; FIFTH MOTION PASSES

Vote on the Resolution on the General Education Curricular Framework as amended:

VOTE: 71-16-2; RESOLUTION PASSES

Professor Langsam thanked the Academic Foundations Committee and the Core Curriculum Committee, which were the two committees that constituted the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education, and particularly the three chairs of the committees, and Associate Provost Cheng.

(6187) Annual Reports

The Committee on Academic Integrity presented its annual report. Professor Langsam thanked the committee for its work.

Professor Fox (English) presented the annual report of the Committee on Admissions. Professor Langsam thanked the committee for its work.

Professor Evans (Library) presented the annual report of the Committee on Honors, Citations and Awards. Professor Langsam thanked the committee for its work.

Professor Anderson (Television and Radio) presented the annual report of the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics. Professor Langsam thanked the committee for its work.

(6188) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate

Professor Fox informed Faculty Council that he was planning to make the following statement at May 5th meeting of the University Faculty Senate later that evening:

"I would like to request some changes in the report of the Academic Freedom and Assessment Committee. The current report says about the topic of 'Core Curriculum' the following:

"Core curriculum, e.g., core and flexible core curricula in Pathways. Faculty are responsible for determining learning outcomes and develop assessments at the college department level that comply with academic standards set by CUNY.

"The Brooklyn College Faculty Council does not consider the Board imposed Pathways curriculum to be a legal and legitimate curriculum. I therefore request that mention of the word 'Pathways' be omitted from this paragraph, and that this paragraph be reworded in the following way:

"Core Curriculum. Faculty are responsible for developing curricula, learning outcomes, and assessments at the college department and school level that comply with academic standards set by CUNY, in collaboration with the CUNY faculty."

(6189) New Business

There was no new business.

(6190) Adjournment

Professor Langsam thanked the members of Faculty Council and the administration for a difficult but very productive year. He commended the faculty for once again showing that the faculty of Brooklyn College was responsible for the curriculum and could make appropriate and legitimate decisions that affect their students. All outgoing chairpersons and members were thanked for their service. There being no further business, Professor Langsam declared the meeting adjourned at 4:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidyah Langsam
Chair

Sharona Levy
Acting Secretary